

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COUNCIL

SUMMATION OF MINUTES
TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2008

I. **Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Jesse Strycker

Carl Zager

Suzann Owen

Eric Ost

Others present:

Justin Goodwin

Michael White

Rick Dietz

Phil Meyer

Public:

Philip Sallee

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Owen motioned to approve the February 5, 2008 minutes. Zager seconded.

Minutes approved 4-0-1.

Old Business

IV. Public Comment

Mr. Sallee has been concerned during the transition of Insight to Comcast. His concern is that he has the same email for many years and since it is a @insightbb.com email address he has contacted Comcast to see if he would be able to keep his address as it is now. Comcast sent a response to Mr. Sallee that his email would temporarily stay the same but he would have a Comcast email address offered to him that would end in @Comcast.net. Mr. Sallee stated that he phoned the City of Bloomington Controller's Office to see a copy of the audited financials that Comcast are required to report and the best response he got from the Controller's Office was that they had never seen such a report and that the TCC is responsible for monitoring the financials and Mr. Sallee wondered if the TCC did indeed have a copy of this from Comcast and if the TCC had any other audited financials from other providers. Zager told Mr. Sallee that the franchise authority that he is referencing is no longer part of the City of Bloomington but is now with the IURC at the state level and that local authorities are now with no avenue and that unfortunately the TCC can not help him but that he would have to take his concerns to the IURC to try to get a response. Ost stated that when the new franchise law went into effect the franchise then became a statewide franchise enabling a blanket approval throughout the state opposed to the video service providers having to go to each town, city and county to get approval to come in and provide service. Ost told Mr. Sallee that he received that same notice from Comcast regarding his email account. Owen stated that the franchise agreement that was in place prior to statewide franchising take over was a very aggressive agreement and since the change has taken effect Owen feels the TCC has lost a lot of credibility. Owen stated that if people decided that they had enough of video service providers and decided to go to satellite that this would be a problem; but people are thankfully not doing that.

Reports and Announcements

A). BTC Members

Zager stated that Greene County had a tornado in February and that Greene County has no sirens, aside from in Linton, to warn them of the tornado's approach. Zager stated that people who are without the sirens and are outside need to look for the warnings of a severe storm or a tornado and people that are inside when a storm is approaching need to tune into their local radio and/or television for the overrides and alerts of severe weather approaching.

Owen stated during the State of the State Address by Governor Daniels he praised the passing of the state franchising and that Governor Daniels needed to be reminded that although this has brought new jobs that there disadvantages of the new law. Owen read a letter addressed to Governor Daniels regarding all that Bloomington has lost due to the new law and that Indiana has not been aggressive in the new laws regarding citizens. Governor Daniels office replied to the concerns and let Owen know that the IURC is meeting with video service providers in communities so that questions and concerns can be answered regarding the franchise change and the issues that Bloomington are most concerned with regarding the changes.

Ost moved to have a work session. The work session would involve the annual report, election of officers and AT&T. Zager seconded the motion. All in favor. 4-0-1. The meeting was set for Monday March 10, 2008 at 1:00 PM in the McCloskey Room at City Hall.

B.) CATS

The report is in the official record.

White presented the monthly report to the council.

Owen asked White if he had heard from AT&T at all regarding the PEG Channels. White stated he had not heard from them. Owen asked if anyone had been phoning in regarding not being able to get the PEG Channels. White stated that he had not had any complaints for about three months from the general public though a member of the library board had complained since getting UVerse he has not been able to watch PEG Channels and is quite upset by this.

White stated that he was not sure that the TCC was being fully heard by the IURC or by AT&T and the concerns for PEG Channels and a year has gone by that AT&T has not complied with state law and as long as he has been in the position he is in with CATS he has never seen a company simply not comply.

C.) Bloomington Digital Underground

Dietz stated that there has been a letter drafted to Comcast regarding the false emergency overrides and alerts that are continuing to go on without anything following for citizens and is now in the City of Bloomington Legal Department under review. Dietz stated he would contact AT&T to see if they are involved with the override alerts.

Dietz stated that he would like to try to get a particular contact created for dealing with the IURC and citizen complaints so that there is always an avenue for complaints to be made, processed and followed through with an answer or response being given to the citizen.

D.) WTIU/TIU2

The report is in the official record.

Phil Meyer presented the report to the council.

Annenberg Channel's satellite feed is getting ready to expire and they will not be renewing their feed.

WTIU/TIU2 will be remodeling their studios in the summer of 2008 to convert to Hi-Def camera and recording devices in their studio. Hi-Def will be their main channel and they will have three additional SD channels all of this will hopefully be done by 2009. Comcast, per the carriage agreement, will carry all four channels.

E.) Comcast

No one from Comcast was present. They are not required to attend due to the franchise being at the State level.

Strycker invited Comcast to send pertinent information and news releases that the TCC could share.

Strycker stated that the fourth quarter franchise fee information for Comcast had been received and it is in the amount of \$179,066.73.

F.) AT&T

No one from AT&T was present.

Strycker openly invited to AT&T to attend the meetings to help the public to better understand the services they are offering the community.

III. Old Business

Reelection of TCC officers.

IV. New Business

V. Adjournment

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council is set for Tuesday April 1, 2008 at 7:30 in the City Council Chambers